



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Region IX
75 Hawthorne St
San Francisco, CA 94105

ENFORCEMENT AND COMPLIANCE
ASSURANCE DIVISION

CERTIFIED MAIL 7015 0640 0001 1121 9714
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

JAN 07 2020

IN THE MATTER OF: Competition Specialties, Inc.

Competition Specialties, Inc.
2402 W. Valley Hwy N.
Auburn, Washington 98001

ATTENTION: Kenneth J. Woomer, President and Registered Agent

Request for Information Under § 208(a) of the Clean Air Act, 42 U.S.C. § 7542(a)

The United States Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") hereby requires Competition Specialties, Inc., and any of its parent organizations, affiliates, predecessors, successors, and assignees ("Competition Specialties" or "you"), to submit certain information as part of an EPA investigation to determine Competition Specialties' compliance with Section 203 of the Clean Air Act ("CAA"), 42 U.S.C. § 7522, and the applicable regulations at 40 C.F.R. Parts 85, 86, and 1068. Examples of vehicles regulated under these Parts include, but are not limited to, light-duty passenger vehicles and diesel trucks. Appendix A provides definitions, Appendix B provides instructions for your responses to this request, and Appendix C specifies the information that you must submit.

The EPA issues this Request for Information ("Information Request") under Section 208(a) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7542(a). Under Section 208(a), the Administrator of the EPA may require any person who is subject to the CAA to provide information necessary to determine whether the person has acted in compliance with these requirements and the regulations promulgated thereunder. The Administrator has delegated this authority to the undersigned Manager of Region 9's Air Section, Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division.

You must submit responses to this Information Request to the EPA representative listed below within thirty (30) calendar days from the date you receive this Information Request. Please carefully review the instructions, definitions, and specific requests as you prepare your response. If you anticipate being unable to fully respond to the Information Request by this date, you must contact Roshni Brahmhatt at (415) 972-3995 or Brahmhhatt.Roshni@epa.gov to request an extension. Any such request should be made in writing as soon as possible after

receipt of this Information Request and must explain why an extension is necessary and include a proposed timeline for providing the requested information. The EPA will review your request and may extend the time in which your response must be provided to some or all of the questions.

Failure to provide the requested information may result in the initiation of a civil action pursuant to Section 205(b) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7524(b). Failure to provide all requested information in its entirety, and in the format requested, may result in additional inquiries and penalties. Pursuant to Sections 208 and 307 of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. §§ 7542(a)-(b), 7607(a), EPA may request additional information, inspections, or depositions. It is important that your responses be clear, accurate, organized, and complete. We will regard any information that is misleading, false, incomplete, or submitted without regard to its accuracy as a violation of the CAA and/or criminal statutes. We may use any information submitted in response to this Information Request in an administrative, civil, or criminal action.

You must submit all requested information under an authorized signature with the following certification (provided in Appendix E):

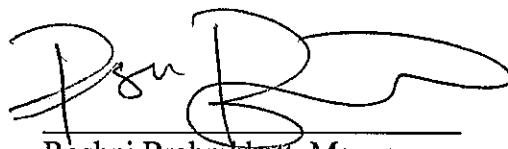
I certify under penalty of law that I have examined and am familiar with the information in the enclosed documents, including all attachments. Based on my inquiry of those individuals with primary responsibility for obtaining the information, I certify that the statements and information are, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for knowingly submitting false statements and information, including the possibility of fines or imprisonment pursuant to Section 113(c)(2) of the Clean Air Act, 42 U.S.C. § 7413(c)(2), and 18 U.S.C. §§ 1001 and 1341.

You may be entitled to assert a business confidentiality claim covering all or part of the information provided in response to this Information Request as specified in the Confidentiality of Business Information ("CBI") regulations, 40 C.F.R. Part 2, Subpart B. However, no CBI claim may be made with respect to emissions data as defined at 40 C.F.R. § 2.301(a)(2). You must specify the page, paragraph, and sentence when identifying the information subject to your CBI claim. Appendix E of this Information Request specifies the assertion and substantiation requirements for business confidentiality claims. EPA may, without further notice, provide the public with any information not subject to a CBI claim.

Please provide all requested information, via electronic or overnight delivery, to:

Roshni Brahmhatt, Manager, Air Section
Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division
Attn: Andrew Chew, P.E.
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9
75 Hawthorne St. (ENF-2-1)
San Francisco, CA 94105

Any questions concerning this Information Request should be directed to Roshni Brahmhatt at (415) 972-3995 or Brahmhhatt.Roshni@epa.gov or have your attorney contact Ryan Bickmore in the Office of Regional Counsel at (415) 972-3058 or Bickmore.Ryan@epa.gov.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Roshni Brahmhatt', written over a horizontal line.

Roshni Brahmhatt, Manager
Air Section
Enforcement and Compliance Assurance
Division
EPA Region 9 – San Francisco

Enclosures

Appendix A

Definitions

All terms used in this Information Request will have their ordinary meaning unless such terms are defined below or in the CAA, 42 U.S.C. §§ 7401 et seq., or the Motor Vehicle Regulations found at 40 C.F.R. Parts 85, 86, and 1068, in which case they shall have their meanings as defined therein.

1. The term "information" includes any written, recorded, or graphic matter of any nature whatsoever, regardless of how recorded, and whether original or copy, including but not limited to, the following: memoranda, reports, expense reports, books, manuals, instructions, financial reports, working papers, records, notes, letters, notices, confirmations, telegrams, receipts, appraisals, pamphlets, magazines, newspapers, prospectuses, interoffice and intraoffice communications, electronic mail ("email"), instant messages, calendars, contracts, cables, notations of any type of conversation, telephone call, meeting, or other communication, bulletins, printed matter, computer printouts, invoices, transcripts, diaries, analyses, returns, summaries, minutes, bills, accounts, estimates, projections, comparisons, messages, correspondence, press releases, circulars, financial statements, reviews, opinions, offers, studies and investigations, questionnaires and surveys, presentations, spreadsheets, and worksheets. The term "information" includes all drafts, preliminary versions, alterations, modifications, revisions, changes, and amendments to the foregoing, as well as any attachments or appendices thereto. The term "information" also includes any graphic or oral records or representations of any kind (including, without limitation, photographs, charts, graphs, voicemails, microfiche, microfilm, videotapes, recordings, and motion pictures), electronic and mechanical records or representations of any kind (including, without limitation, tapes, cassettes, disks, computer server files, computer hard drive files, CDs, DVDs, back-up tape, memory sticks, recordings, and removable computer media such as thumb drives, flash drives, memory cards, and external hard drives), and other written, printed, typed, or other graphic or recorded matter of any kind or nature, however produced or reproduced, and whether preserved in writing, film, tape, electronic format, disk, videotape or otherwise. Information bearing any notation not part of the original text is considered to be separate information. A draft or non-identical copy is separate information within the meaning of this term.
2. The term "entity" means any natural person, corporation, partnership, limited liability company, sole proprietorship, joint venture, or any formal or informal group, organization or association.
3. The term "person" includes an individual, corporation, partnership, or association. *See* Section 302(e) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7602(e).
4. The term "you," "your," and "Competition Specialties" means Competition Specialties, Inc., and any affiliates, predecessors, successors, and assignees.
5. The term "affiliated organization" means any organization or entity associated with

another entity as an agent, parent organization, predecessor corporation, subsidiary organization, or any organization, or entity acting in lieu of another entity.

6. The term “applications” means all vehicle or engine configurations.
7. The term “emission related parts” means those parts installed for the specific purpose of controlling emissions, or those components, systems, or elements of design which must function properly to assure continued vehicle emission compliance, as defined in 40 C.F.R. § 85.2102. Emission related parts include, but are not limited to, catalysts, exhaust gas recirculation systems, diesel particulate filters, and selective catalytic reduction systems.
8. The term “element of design” means any control system (e.g., computer software, electronic control system, emission control system, computer logic), and/or control system calibrations, and/or the results of systems interaction, and/or hardware items on a motor vehicle or motor vehicle engine, as defined in 40 C.F.R. §§ 86.094-2 and 86.1803-01.
9. The term “electronic control module” or “ECM” means a device that receives inputs from various sensors and outputs signals to control engine, vehicle, or equipment functions. The ECM uses software programming including calculations and tables of information to provide the appropriate outputs. Multiple electronic control modules may be incorporated in a single unit to control various engine, vehicle, or equipment functions. ECM can be a generic term but may refer specifically to the engine control module when discussing emission controls on vehicles and engines. Examples of electronic control modules include, but are not limited to, the Engine Control Module, OBD Control Modules, Powertrain Control Module (“PCM”), Transmission Control Module (“TCM”), Body Control Module (“BCM”) and aftertreatment control module.
10. The term “EM product” means any device or product capable of accessing, altering, or replacing the software programming, calculations, computer logic, tables of information (e.g., fuel timing maps), coding, or other content or information stored within or used by an ECM. EM products include, but are not limited to, programmers, modules, tuners, ECM calibration tools, replacement ECMs, flash tools, or engine management products.
11. The term “product” includes any software code, software, hardware, program, element of design, calibration, engine tune, EM product, device, part, or component.
12. The term “exhaust product” means exhaust components designed for use downstream from the exhaust port of a motor vehicle engine, and include, but are not limited to, EGR block plates, EGR delete kits, exhaust replacement pipes, and straight pipes. This term does not include ancillary exhaust components such as clamps, hangers, nuts, bolts, and gaskets that are not capable of impacting or replacing emission related parts.

Appendix B

Instructions for Responses

1. Provide a complete, detailed response, in English, to each Request in Appendix C below.
2. Appendix F consists of an Excel workbook in which you are requested to organize your responses to Requests 1 through 4. Please populate the workbook with your responses to Requests 1 through 4 in accordance with all instructions. Requests 1 through 4 are summarized in Appendix F for your convenience only. The Request summaries in Appendix F are not substitutes for the full text of the Requests in Appendix C. Please contact Roshni Brahmhatt if providing the responses in Excel format will be an issue.
3. Please provide your response to this Information Request in electronic form on a disk (CD or DVD media), flash drive, hard drive, or similar digital data storage device. All responsive documents and materials (e.g., copies of print media, audio, and visual material) must be provided as an accurate and legible copy in searchable format, number stamped in sequential order (e.g., BATES stamped).
4. Where a Request allows or requires documents to be provided in response, provide all documents electronically in a folder specific to that question or subpart and labeled accordingly. Provide copies of documents, not original documents.
5. When a response is provided in the form of a number, specify the units of measure.
6. Where documents or information necessary for a response is not in your possession, custody, or control, indicate in your response why such documents or information are not available or in your possession, custody, or control, and identify any source that either possesses or is likely to possess such information.
7. Where you have previously submitted information to the EPA that is responsive to any of the Requests set forth in Appendix C, re-submit that information in accordance with these instructions (Appendix B). Identify the material that was previously provided, the date on which it was provided, how the information was provided (e.g., electronically, fax, mail), and the individual at the EPA to whom it was provided.
8. If you assert any objections in responding to this Information Request, each objection must state with specificity the grounds for objecting to the request, including the reasons, and must state whether any responsive materials are being withheld on the basis of that objection.
9. This Request for Information is a continuing request. You must promptly supplement your response to any Request in Appendix C in the event you learn that you possess responsive information not yet produced or if you gain possession, custody, or control of responsive information after responding to this Information Request.

10. You must maintain an unaltered and complete copy of your website as it exists at the time this Information Request is received for a period of two years. This includes all pages, graphical elements, and text displayed on the website. You must provide this information in readable electronic format to EPA within ten days upon request.

Appendix C

Information Request

Competition Specialties, Inc. (“Competition Specialties” or “you”) must submit the following information to the United States Environmental Protection Agency pursuant to Section 208 of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7542, regarding the sale or offer for sale of certain parts and products.

Provide the following information in Appendix F, worksheet 1.

1. Identify each EM product Competition Specialties sold during the period from January 1, 2018, through the date of this Information Request, in Appendix F, worksheet 1, and provide the requested information. Competition Specialties may provide the requested information in a different format (e.g., in a spreadsheet routinely maintained by Competition Specialties) if all the information requested in items a-g below is included.
 - a. Part Number, Item Code, or other unique identifier used by Competition Specialties;
 - b. Product name;
 - c. Product manufacturer;
 - d. Identify the product’s applications by vehicle type, make, model, and year(s);
 - e. Quantity Competition Specialties sold during the period January 1, 2018, through the date of this Information Request;
 - f. Average sale price;
 - g. Indicate whether, together with the addition, modification, or removal of a motor vehicle’s parts, the product has the effect to permanently or temporarily change, affect, bypass, defeat, or render inoperative a motor vehicle emission control device or emission related part.
2. For each product identified in response to Request 1 which Competition Specialties sold during the period January 1, 2018, through the date of this Information Request, provide all sales information using the format provided in Appendix F, worksheet 2. Competition Specialties may provide the requested information in a spreadsheet exported from an invoice management program such as QuickBooks in lieu of using Appendix F, worksheet 2.
3. Identify each exhaust product Competition Specialties sold during the period from January 1, 2018, through the date of this Information Request, in Appendix F, worksheet 3, and provide the requested information. Competition Specialties may provide the requested information in a different format (e.g., in a spreadsheet routinely maintained by Competition Specialties) if all the information requested in items a-g below is included.
 - a. Part Number, Item Code, or other unique identifier used by Competition Specialties;
 - b. Product name;
 - c. Product manufacturer;
 - d. Identify the product’s applications by vehicle type, make, model, and year(s);
 - e. Quantity Competition Specialties sold during the period January 1, 2018, through

- the date of this Information Request;
 - f. Average sale price;
 - g. Indicate whether, together with the addition, modification, or removal of a motor vehicle's parts, the product has the effect to permanently or temporarily change, affect, bypass, defeat, or render inoperative a motor vehicle emission control device or emission related part.
4. For each product identified in response to Request 4 which Competition Specialties sold during the period January 1, 2018, through the date of this Information Request, provide all sales information using the format provided in Appendix F, worksheet 4. Competition Specialties may provide the requested information in a spreadsheet exported from an invoice management program such as QuickBooks in lieu of using Appendix F, worksheet 4.

Provide the following information.

5. For each product identified in response to Requests 1 and 3:
- a. provide copies of all advertisements for each product; and
 - b. provide all manuals (e.g., owner's and installation) in your possession.
6. Provide a detailed, written description of Competition Specialties' business structure including ownership, corporate form, parent and/or subsidiary companies, and affiliated organizations.
7. Provide the location of all warehouses or storage facilities where Competition Specialties stores products.
8. Identify each person responsible for responding to this Information Request, including his or her title, and the Request(s) to which he or she responded.

Appendix D

Confidential Business Information

An entity may assert a business confidentiality claim covering all or part of the information provided in response to this Information Request for any business information entitled to confidential treatment under Section 208(c) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7542, and 40 C.F.R. Part 2, subpart B. Under Section 208(c) of the CAA, entities are entitled to confidential treatment of information that would divulge methods or processes entitled to protection as trade secrets. Under 40 C.F.R. Part 2, subpart B, business confidentiality means “the concept of trade secrecy and other related legal concepts which give (or may give) a business the right to preserve the confidentiality of business information and to limit its use or disclosure by others in order that the business may obtain or retain business advantages it derives from its rights in the information.” 40 C.F.R. § 2.201(e).

Information covered by a claim of business confidentiality will be disclosed by the EPA only to the extent, and by means of the procedures, set forth in Section 208(c) of the CAA and 40 C.F.R. Part 2, subpart B. EPA will construe a failure to furnish a business confidentiality claim with a response to this Information Request as a waiver of that claim, and the information may be made available to the public without further notice.

Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 2.301(h), the EPA possesses the authority to disclose to any authorized representative of the United States information which might otherwise be entitled to confidential treatment. To assist in its review and analysis, the EPA may disclose information provided in response to this and other information requests to an EPA contractor, the Eastern Research Group, under contract number 68HERH19C0004. *See* 84 Fed. Reg. 8859, 59-60 (Mar. 12, 2019). An entity may submit any comments to the EPA with its assertion of a business confidentiality claim.

To assert a business confidentiality claim, an entity must place on (or attach to) all information subject to the claim either a cover sheet, stamped or typed legend, or other suitable form of notice employing language such as “trade secret,” “proprietary,” or “company confidential” at the time it provides its response to this Information Request. Allegedly confidential portions of otherwise non-confidential documents should be clearly identified, and may be provided separately to facilitate identification and handling by the EPA. An entity should indicate whether confidential treatment is only required until a certain date or until the occurrence of a certain event.

The criteria the EPA will use in determining whether material claimed as business confidential is entitled to confidential treatment are set forth at 40 C.F.R. §§ 2.208 and 2.301. These regulations provide, among other things, that an entity must satisfactorily show that: (1) the information is within the scope of business confidentiality as defined at 40 C.F.R. § 2.201(e), (2) that it has taken reasonable measures to protect the confidentiality of the information and that it intends to continue to do so, (3) the information is not and has not been reasonably obtainable by legitimate means without its consent, and (4) the disclosure of the information is likely to cause substantial harm to its business’s competitive edge. *See* 40 C.F.R. §§ 2.208 (a)-(e). Emission data, as

defined at 40 C.F.R. § 2.301(a)(2), is expressly not entitled to confidential treatment under 40 C.F.R. Part 2, subpart B. *See* 42 U.S.C. § 7542(c); 40 C.F.R. § 2.301(e).

If an entity asserts a claim of business confidentiality in connection with information and documents forwarded in response to this Information Request, in accordance with 40 C.F.R. § 2.204(e)(4), it must answer the following questions with respect to any information or document for which it asserts a claim of business confidentiality:

1. What specific portions of the information are allegedly to be entitled to confidential treatment? Specify by page, paragraph, and sentence when identifying the information subject to the claim.
2. For what period of time do you request that the information be maintained as confidential (*e.g.*, until a certain date, until the occurrence of a specified event or permanently)? If the occurrence of a specific event will eliminate the need for confidentiality, specify that event. Additionally, explain why the information should be protected for the time period you have specified.
3. What measures have you taken to protect the information claimed as confidential from undesired disclosure? Have you disclosed the information to anyone other than a governmental body or someone who is bound by an agreement not to disclose the information further? If so, why should the information still be considered confidential?
4. Is the information contained in any publicly available material such as the Internet, publicly available databases, promotional publications, annual reports or articles? Is there any means by which a member of the public could obtain access to the information? Is the information of a kind that you would customarily not release to the public?
5. Has any governmental body made a determination as to the confidentiality of the information? If so, please attach a copy of the determination.
6. For each category of information claimed as confidential, explain with specificity whether disclosure of the information is likely to result in substantial harm to your competitive position. Explain the specific nature of that harm, why they should be viewed as substantial, and the causal relationship between disclosure and such harmful effect. How could your competitors make use of this information to your detriment?
7. Is there any other explanation you deem relevant to the EPA's determination of your business confidentiality claim that is not covered in the preceding requests? If so, you may provide such additional explanation.

An entity must furnish responses to the above questions concurrent with its response to this Information Request if it has claimed any information as business confidential. *See* 40 C.F.R. § 2.204(e)(2). Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 2.205(b)(2), an entity may request an extension of this deadline.

The EPA will construe a failure to furnish timely responses to the above questions as a waiver of any confidentiality claim, consistent with 40 C.F.R. § 2.204(e)(1). Please provide responses to:

Roshni Brahmabhatt, Manager, Air Section
Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division
Attn: Andrew Chew, P.E.
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9
75 Hawthorne St. (ENF-2-1)
San Francisco, CA 94105

Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 2.205(c), be hereby advised that information provided as part of any comments may be entitled to confidential treatment if, when it is received by the EPA, it is marked in accordance with 40 C.F.R. § 2.203(b). As required by 40 C.F.R. § 2.204(e)(6), an entity may assert a business confidentiality claim covering all or part of its response to these Requests, as provided in 40 C.F.R. § 2.203(b). Information covered by such a business confidentiality claim will be disclosed by the EPA only to the extent, and by means of the procedures, set forth in Section 208(c) of the CAA and 40 C.F.R. Part 2. The EPA will construe the failure to furnish a confidentiality claim with the comments as a waiver of that claim, and the information may be made available to the public without further notice.

Appendix E

Statement of Certification

You are submitting the enclosed documents in response to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's ("EPA") Information Request, issued pursuant to Section 208(a) of the Clean Air Act, to determine compliance with the Clean Air Act and its affiliated regulations.

I certify that I am fully authorized by _____ [corporate affiliation] to provide the above information on its behalf to EPA.

I certify under penalty of law that I have examined and am familiar with the information in the enclosed documents, including all attachments. Based on my inquiry of those individuals with primary responsibility for obtaining the information, I certify that the statements and information are, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for knowingly submitting false statements and information, including the possibility of fines or imprisonment pursuant to Section 113(c)(2) of the Clean Air Act, 42 U.S.C. § 7413(c)(2), and 18 U.S.C. §§ 1001 and 1341.

Date: _____

Name (Printed): _____

Signature: _____

Title: _____

U.S. EPA Small Business Resources Information Sheet

The United States Environmental Protection Agency provides an array of resources to help small businesses understand and comply with federal and state environmental laws. In addition to helping small businesses understand their environmental obligations and improve compliance, these resources will also help such businesses find cost-effective ways to comply through pollution prevention techniques and innovative technologies.

Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU)

www.epa.gov/aboutepa/about-office-small-and-disadvantaged-business-utilization-osdbu

EPA's OSDBU advocates and advances business, regulatory, and environmental compliance concerns of small and socio-economically disadvantaged businesses.

EPA's Asbestos Small Business Ombudsman (ASBO)

www.epa.gov/resources-small-businesses/asbestos-small-business-ombudsman or 1-800-368-5888

The EPA ASBO serves as a conduit for small businesses to access EPA and facilitates communications between the small business community and the Agency.

Small Business Environmental Assistance Program

<https://nationalsbeap.org>

This program provides a "one-stop shop" for small businesses and assistance providers seeking information on a wide range of environmental topics and state-specific environmental compliance assistance resources.

EPA's Compliance Assistance Homepage

www.epa.gov/compliance

This page is a gateway to industry and statute-specific environmental resources, from extensive web-based information to hotlines and compliance assistance specialists.

Compliance Assistance Centers

www.complianceassistance.net

EPA sponsored Compliance Assistance Centers provide information targeted to industries with many small businesses. They were developed in partnership with industry, universities and other federal and state agencies.

Agriculture

www.epa.gov/agriculture

Automotive Recycling

www.ecarcenter.org

Automotive Service and Repair

www.ccar-greenlink.org or 1-888-GRN-LINK

Chemical Manufacturing

www.chemalliance.org

Construction

www.cicacenter.org

Education

www.campuserc.org

Food Processing

www.fpeac.org

Healthcare

www.hercenter.org

Local Government

www.lgean.org

Surface Finishing

<http://www.sterc.org>

Paints and Coatings

www.paintcenter.org

Printing

www.pneac.org

Ports

www.portcompliance.org

Transportation

www.tercenter.org

U.S. Border Compliance and Import/Export Issues

www.bordercenter.org

EPA Hotlines and Clearinghouses

www.epa.gov/home/epa-hotlines

EPA sponsors many free hotlines and clearinghouses that provide convenient assistance regarding environmental requirements. Examples include:

Clean Air Technology Center (CATC) Info-line

www.epa.gov/catc or 1-919-541-0800

Superfund, TRI, EPCRA, RMP, and Oil Information Center

1-800-424-9346

EPA Imported Vehicles and Engines Public Helpline

www.epa.gov/otaq/imports or 1-734-214-4100

National Pesticide Information Center

www.npic.orst.edu or 1-800-858-7378

National Response Center Hotline to report oil and hazardous substance spills - <http://nrc.uscg.mil> or 1-800-424-8802

Pollution Prevention Information Clearinghouse (PPIC) -

www.epa.gov/p2/pollution-prevention-resources#ppic or 1-202-566-0799

Safe Drinking Water Hotline -

www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/safe-drinking-water-hotline or 1-800-426-4791

Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) Hotline

tsc hotline@epa.gov or 1-202-554-1404

Small Entity Compliance Guides

<https://www.epa.gov/reg-flex/small-entity-compliance-guides>

EPA publishes a Small Entity Compliance Guide (SECG) for every rule for which the Agency has prepared a final regulatory flexibility analysis, in accordance with Section 604 of the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA).

Regional Small Business Liaisons

www.epa.gov/resources-small-businesses/epa-regional-office-small-business-liaisons

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Regional Small Business Liaison (RSBL) is the primary regional contact and often the expert on small business assistance, advocacy, and outreach. The RSBL is the regional voice for the EPA Asbestos and Small Business Ombudsman (ASBO).

State Resource Locators

www.envcap.org/statetools

The Locators provide state-specific contacts, regulations and resources covering the major environmental laws.

State Small Business Environmental Assistance Programs (SBEAPs)

<https://nationalsbeap.org/states/list>

State SBEAPs help small businesses and assistance providers understand environmental requirements and sustainable business practices through workshops, trainings and site visits.

EPA's Tribal Portal

www.epa.gov/tribalportal

The Portal helps users locate tribal-related information within EPA and other federal agencies.

EPA Compliance Incentives

EPA provides incentives for environmental compliance. By participating in compliance assistance programs or voluntarily disclosing and promptly correcting violations before an enforcement action has been initiated, businesses may be eligible for penalty waivers or reductions. EPA has two such policies that may apply to small businesses:

EPA's Small Business Compliance Policy

www.epa.gov/enforcement/small-businesses-and-enforcement

EPA's Audit Policy

www.epa.gov/compliance/epas-audit-policy

Commenting on Federal Enforcement Actions and Compliance Activities

The Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act (SBREFA) established a SBREFA Ombudsman and 10 Regional Fairness Boards to receive comments from small businesses about federal agency enforcement actions. If you believe that you fall within the Small Business Administration's definition of a small business (based on your North American Industry Classification System designation, number of employees or annual receipts, as defined at 13 C.F.R. 121.201; in most cases, this means a business with 500 or fewer employees), and wish to comment on federal enforcement and compliance activities, call the SBREFA Ombudsman's toll-free number at 1-888-REG-FAIR (1-888-734-3247).

Every small business that is the subject of an enforcement or compliance action is entitled to comment on the Agency's actions without fear of retaliation. EPA employees are prohibited from using enforcement or any other means of retaliation against any member of the regulated community in response to comments made under SBREFA.

Your Duty to Comply

If you receive compliance assistance or submit a comment to the SBREFA Ombudsman or Regional Fairness Boards, you still have the duty to comply with the law, including providing timely responses to EPA information requests, administrative or civil complaints, other enforcement actions or communications. The assistance information and comment processes do not give you any new rights or defenses in any enforcement action. These processes also do not affect EPA's obligation to protect public health or the environment under any of the environmental statutes it enforces, including the right to take emergency remedial or emergency response actions when appropriate. Those decisions will be based on the facts in each situation. The SBREFA Ombudsman and Fairness Boards do not participate in resolving EPA's enforcement actions. Also, remember that to preserve your rights, you need to comply with all rules governing the enforcement process.

EPA is disseminating this information to you without making a determination that your business or organization is a small business as defined by Section 222 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act or related provisions.